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1. In July 1952, the construction staff in Merder had about 10 employees, the chief being Arnold Arzygoda, a member of the SED. The construction bureau was directly subordinate to the Minister President.
2. In early September, a portion of the airfield projects were turned over to the VP Air Force by the Soviet construction headquarters. On 10 September, a VP inspector at Drewitz airfield which was still under construction declared that this airfield would be occupied by the VP. The Soviet headquarters in Merder was being divided into a Soviet construction staff and a VP construction staff. The section of the Dresden Bauunion which was previously charged with construction work at airfields and barracks installation moved into a new building on Zwickauer Strasse in Dresden on 15 September. It was recently charged with the supervision of construction work at all VP airfields. Personnel newly assigned to this headquarters included Gelbmann (fnu), manager, Klunker (fnu) chief, Hans Jahn, deputy for sub-surface construction, and Johannes Knaute, deputy for above-ground construction. The personnel of this headquarters was to be taken over by the VP in the near future. Allegedly, all the airfield construction projects, previously supervised by other Bauunion firms, were to be placed under the supervision of the headquarters in Dresden. However, it appeared improbable that all of the air force projects concerned were to be occupied by the VP.¹
3. On 14 October, [redacted] the special construction staff previously located at No 138 Eisenbahn Strasse in Merder was taken over by the VP in early October and that it had moved to Berlin. Soviet Lieutenant Colonel Merkulov (fnu) who had previously given the orders for construction work at Drewitz airfield was the liaison officer between the Soviet Force construction headquarters in Merder and the VP construction staff in Berlin.
4. [redacted] the construction department in the Ministry of the Interior in the future will distinguish between operational projects and other projects. VP air installations were classified as operational projects. Recently, a special air force construction headquarters had been established. The funds for the construction projects were allotted to this headquarters by the construction department in the Ministry of the Interior. The construction of dwelling houses and other installations of a non-military type for the VP Air Force continued to be handled by the construction department.²

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1. [] Comment. It was previously reported that the Bauunion South was established for the construction of VP air installations and that this new Bauunion was detached from the Bauunion in Dresden. It is believed that the personnel for the Bauunion South will wear VP uniforms.

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2. [] Comment. The construction department in the Ministry of the Interior of the German Democratic Republic is responsible for all VP construction projects for security reasons. The German Air Force construction staff which moved from Wehrder to Berlin probably is that section of the construction department in the Ministry of the Interior which is exclusively charged with the construction of all VP airfields. According to several reports received so far, Brawitz airfield is to be occupied by the VP Air Force.

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